

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 projects funded under the NIEHS WETP Hazardous Waste Worker Training (HWWT) Program, Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP) and Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Hazmat E-Learning Program

Background

The major objective of the NIEHS WETP is to prevent work related harm by assisting in the training of workers in how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during hazardous waste operations, hazardous materials transportation, environmental restoration of contaminated facilities or chemical emergency response.

During the past several years, the movement towards a “greener” economy has greatly expanded offering new opportunities for all workers but particularly for those unemployed or underemployed. NIEHS WETP has documented the need for safety and health training in the emerging green sector including the areas of commercial and residential weatherization, alternative energy development, green remediation, green construction and emerging industries like nanotechnology.

The NIEHS WETP has recently awarded \$6,784,076 in ARRA funds to provide administrative supplements to eligible awardees. Priorities for ARRA supplemental applications included health and safety training for target populations that will be employed in the hazardous components of jobs that will be supported by the federal stimulus and recovery program. For the emerging green sector, this includes the customization of safety and health training for emerging jobs in commercial and residential weatherization, alternative energy development, green remediation, green construction and emerging industries like nanotechnology.

Projects Funded

- » The Midwest Consortium, based at the University of Cincinnati, will utilize \$620,494 in ARRA funds for training hazardous waste site cleanup workers and to train local workers who are unemployed or underemployed to conduct weatherization activities in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin.
- » The Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund has received \$800,000 in ARRA funds to expand their current HWWT Program to meet the needs of the emerging weatherization and sustainable construction workforce. They will target workers who are affected by the current employment crises. Categories of training include Weatherization Installer/Technician, Weatherization Supervisor, and Energy Auditor.
- » The New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center, based at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, received \$400,000 to provide training to workers in various hazardous waste areas especially those who will be engaged in cleaning up newly funded ARRA Superfund sites in New York and New Jersey. The scope of work includes hazardous waste clean-up and green jobs initiatives under the HWWT and the Minority Worker Training Programs. The participants of the Center that received administrative supplement funding are UMDNJ-School of Public Health, the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health, and the New York District Council of Carpenters.
- » OAI, Inc. will utilize \$482,000 to implement health and safety training for newly hired and/or retrained weatherization, construction, environmental remediation and debris removal workers and contractors in Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Maine.
- » The International Union of Operating Engineers’ National Training Fund (IUOE) has received \$441,000 to provide training for workers who are applying green concepts, or implementing green technologies and alternative energy sources to projects directly supported by the ARRA.

- » The Center for Construction Research and Training (formerly the Center to Protect Workers Rights) received \$615,000 to deliver training for green construction jobs, including weatherization and alternative energy sources. This includes a train the trainer program to conduct energy audits using the Insulation Energy Appraisal Certification Program (IEAP). This trainer program will teach their workers how to conduct energy appraisals of existing buildings, work that will be critical as older buildings are weatherized. Under the Minority Worker Training Program, they will expand their comprehensive environmental and construction training for under-represented workers in four communities including New Orleans, LA; St. Paul, MN; Los Angeles and East Palo Alto, CA to train and employ workers in the green construction, wind turbine, and photo-voltaic industries.
- » The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) received \$628,000 to provide required worker safety and health training for workers who will be employed on ARRA funded hazardous waste cleanup projects and large scale construction projects.
- » The SEIU Education and Training Fund has received \$265,136 to train healthcare workers, state highway and waste water workers in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and New York.
- » SBIR awardee BandeMar Networks received \$117,429 to provide high school and college undergraduate students with hands-on experience with state-of-the-art health training and research translation technologies.
- » The New England Consortium (TNEC), based at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, received \$373,270 to provide training courses to students identified by workforce development programs in New Bedford, Boston and Quincy, Massachusetts. TNEC is also partnering with the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety (MA-DOS) on a series of trainings for state agencies. The Consortium will also provide training to the City of Somerville, Massachusetts Department of Public Works.
- » Dillard University has received \$400,000 to implement Minority Worker Training Programs in Atlanta, Georgia and the four-county area surrounding Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Participants will be recruited from low-income communities, selected, trained, and placed into employment. The project will also provide green supervisor training for 40 selected program graduates in Baton Rouge and Detroit.
- » SBIR awardee MetaMedia Training International, Inc. received \$46,737 to develop additional lessons and scenarios for the parent grant's "HazMatIQ Four Step System eLearning" program that assists in the training of firefighters. They will hire an additional graphic designer/programmer to assist in course development.
- » The International Chemical Workers Union and its consortium partner the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) has received \$403,044 to prepare members of underserved populations to gain employment in remediation and hazardous waste industries. The program will be conducted in Detroit, MI; Chicago, IL; Oakland, CA; and Anniston, AL.
- » The Western Region Universities Consortium, centered at University of California at Los Angeles, received \$425,000 train workers and trainers about potential exposure to the hazardous materials, waste and related safety hazards of jobs supported by the federal stimulus act and in the emerging areas of green building and green chemistry.
- » The United Steel Workers (USW) received \$720,250 to provide training for at-risk construction workers engaged in highway and bridge construction supported by the federal stimulus and recovery program and will carry out a safety and health training partnership with the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and the Urban Green Job Alliance to provide training for low income residents for public housing improvement (weatherization) jobs created through ARRA.
- » As an SBIR awardee, Information In Place received \$46,716 to design, develop, and evaluate two additional training modules with integrated job aids that address health and safety of green building materials.



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